



# Big day

## 8th AF activates Det. 1, opens CAOC, dedicates model

By 1st Lt. Carla Pampe  
8th Air Force Chief of Public Affairs

**BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La** – During a whirlwind visit here Aug. 16, Gen. Hal Hornburg, commander of the Air Combat Command, joined 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson and a host of other distinguished visitors in standing up a new detachment, opening a new Air and Space Operations Center, and dedicating an aircraft model to the men and women of the base.

The formal activities began with the formal activation of Eighth Air Force Det. 1. The detachment consists of the Air Force Network Operations and Security Center, intelligence support personnel and a network attack staff. One of the missions of the detachment's more than 60-person staff will be to command and control the Air Force's computer networks to include defense from cyber attack.

"I consider the Air Force Network Operations and Security Center the AOC for the Air Force's newest mission area – cyberspace – and this ... is another weapon in your arsenal to combat the virtual threat," General Hornburg said.

Following the Det. 1 activation, Gen. Hornburg joined Lt. Gen. Thomas Goslin Jr., deputy commander, U.S. Strategic Command, in cutting the ribbon on the Strategic Command Air Force's Combined Air and Space Operations Center.



**Gen. Hal Hornburg, Air Combat Command commander, addresses a crowd at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Aug. 16 as a B-52 flies over. General Hornburg dedicated a B-52 aircraft model to all the men and women who have kept the airplane flying. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert Horstman)**

"As we assemble beneath the updated lighting and stand above a modern raised floor with miles of fiber and cable underneath, we are not here to cut the ribbon on a new building, but to roll out a new capability for the Air Force and combatant commanders around the world: bringing the next evolution of command and control to the battlefield," General Goslin said.

The new CAOC provides the Strategic Command's Air Force component, or STRATAF, with a center from which to execute worldwide air operations such as Global Strike. It is housed in a building that formerly served as a

recreation center, and recently underwent an \$8.7 million renovation. The CAOC has 405 operator positions and 26,000 feet of operational floor space. It also features the latest technologies and data wall displays. Forty to 50 full-time operators and maintenance personnel are expected to operate the CAOC on a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week basis.

After opening the new CAOC, the day's events wrapped up with a dedication of new 1/8th scale B-52 aircraft model display donated to the base by

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# Modern day patriots, are there any?

By Col. Gary Lane  
5th Maintenance Group commander

**MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.** – We often read in our history books about patriots – what often comes to mind is someone like Mel Gibson dressed in early day garb as he was in the Patriot. We may even think of soldiers in rags in the snow at Valley Forge facing an overwhelming force of British regulars.

What about modern day patriots? Are there such people who risk their lives daily to protect our way of life, our nation that our forefathers passed down to us?

I ask you to put down the paper and go look in the mirror. If you are married, then take your spouse with you. You are now looking at true patriots who are willing to put their lives on the line, suffer whatever hardships come their way, and cheerfully set about their tasks. Look outside at your military friends and neighbors; more patriots.

Not one of us decided to enter the military to get rich. There is absolutely no way anyone of us can seek out fortune with a military career, but our nation and our citizens can count on us to be there to prevent aggressors from taking away our way of life, our liberties, our government, or our land.

For 228 years, men and women like us have stood up and taken oaths to protect and defend the constitution

*Patriots -- you are  
the reason this  
nation is still free.*

and our nation. Many more have been wounded, maimed, or severely injured.

Our nation's forces are now entirely made up of volunteers just like you. Throughout the hardships of frequent moves, high operations tempo, long hours without additional compensation, missing many important family events (our children taking their first steps, their first birthdays or Christmases, anniversaries, etc.) and long separations that put us in harms way, we continue to sign on the dotted line for another tour to continue on in our nation's defense.

It doesn't matter where you work, whether it's pushing papers at the military personnel flight, on gate guard duty or roaming the missile field, turning wrenches on the jets, deep underground in a missile silo, putting the throttles to the firewall on takeoff, ensuring the government funds are wisely spent, or serving up chow at midnight, you are a patriot in every sense of the word.

What are our attributes? We beat ourselves up unmercifully when things don't turn out as planned, but

we fail to credit ourselves when our work turns out spectacularly. Openly, we feel embarrassed when we are decorated for "service above and beyond," but deep down, we feel proud that we did a "job well done."

We willingly place ourselves in harm's way to keep our families safe, for we know that if we don't, an aggressor or a band of thugs will soon be putting us all in jeopardy. Our spouses and family understand this, and they are the unsung heroes of this brotherhood we call the profession of arms. They are the ones who deal with broken down cars in the middle of winter, our children who keep them up all night because they are sick or are missing us while we are deployed to some desolate location where someone is taking potshots at us. They are the ones who dread the midnight visits by the commanders because something has happened to one of our aircraft or one of us.

Patriots – you are the reason this nation is still free. You are the reason that our citizens can travel the world knowing that the United States is the sole superpower of the world. You are the reason that this nation speaks English, and not Russian or Chinese. We are surrounded by patriots, look in the mirror, look at your neighbor, and especially look at your spouse. God bless the patriots of the United States of America – God bless you and your spouse.

## The "Mighty Eighth" Voice

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# Yes, we are our brother's keeper

By Maj. Norma Kirk  
Military Equal Opportunity chief

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** – A few month's ago I attended a mandatory briefing on suicide. At first I thought it was no big deal. I was just trying to stay current with block training. The briefing was going along fine and the class mood was rather light at first.

However, Chaplain (Maj.) Elizabeth Harris-Lamkin was there and every time she talked, the seriousness of suicide in the military began to hit home. The atmosphere quickly changed to one of reflection and significance. As the chaplain shared her experiences, the thought of suicide in the military and the fact that we should all be aware of it, quickly became a reality.

During my career, I never thought suicide was something that would actually hit home. But during June and July, three 116th Air Control Wing members committed suicide. I don't know why or how this could happen. I have been in this unit for about five years now. I have attended many wing social events, talked to folks and visited various squadrons.

One of the Military Equal Opportunity office's main goals is to be in tune and aware of the wing's climate and morale. Given

the challenges that go along with being the first blended wing, I still felt everything was going well. The MEO in the 116th office staff strives to settle concerns at the lowest possible level and our record stands with no formal complaints filed in the last three years.

In addition, several squadrons have been responsive to the MEO office's services and interventions. Also, our unit receiving an award for The Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit, by the National Guard Association, is another testament to how we excel as a top-notch team.

After hearing about the first suicide, I was shocked and dismayed. These feelings escalated after learning of the second and third suicides. Like many others on base, I keep asking

myself, "What is going on here?" Not only have these suicides occurred within a four week span, but about

two weeks afterward, another 116th airman killed a married couple and wounded another airman who was an acquaintance of the couple. This is a total of five deaths over a short period of time.

To come to grips with my feelings, I visited the chaplain's office, and spoke with Master Sgt.

James Rogers. I asked him about his feelings of what had transpired. Sergeant Rogers expressed to me his insights. He said that in today's fast pace society, many of us are void and unaware of coping mechanisms to deal with some of the complexities of life – specifically with relationships. He also pointed out that man lives in chaos, and as people, we have lost our

spiritual connections with one another.

Perhaps if we all attended at least one drill church service each quarter, we could begin to reconnect in this area.

We can easily become distracted on a day-to-day basis, just dealing with the stuff on our own plate. As the 116th family, we must not let these tragedies go in passing as yesterday's news.

These incidents have gnawed at my heart and sadden me greatly. I am compelled, along with our wings leadership, to make sure something is done.

We must put forth every effort to prevent another airman – another member of our Air Force family – from taking his or her own life.

Col. Mark Hall, 116th ACW vice commander, said in his e-mail response regarding our losses, to "Continue to look out for one another .... each one of you is irreplaceable."

There are many support services available. However, they mean nothing if the people in need are not lead to their doorsteps. This is where we all, especially those in leadership positions, must make an extra effort to reach out to someone. I am sure most of you have heard that you should know your people. We need to ask each

## Suicide Warning Signs

*Please be aware there is no typical suicide person. When you act on warning signs you can save a life. Below are typical warning signs:*

- Talking about committing suicide
- Drastic changes in behavior
- Trouble eating or sleeping
- Withdrawing from friends or social activities
- No interest in hobbies, work, school, etc.
- Preparing for death by making arrangements
- Giving away prized possessions
- Prior suicide attempts
- Taking unnecessary risks
- Recent or severe loss
- Preoccupation with death
- Losing interest in personal appearance
- Increasing use of alcohol or drugs



### ● **BIG DAY, from page 1**

the Boeing Corporation.

"Even though it operates in Air Combat Command these days in a role that has shifted significantly, the B-52 remains unique because of the hardworking men and women who fly it, maintain it and support it," said retired Lt. Gen. Ron Marcotte, Boeing's vice president and deputy general manager of Air Force systems for integrated defense systems. "This is an airplane made great by so many and this model is a tribute to each and every one of them."

The model's tail number is 008, for the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force headquartered here. It also bears the name of retired Maj. Gen. William Eubank Jr., who commanded the first Air Force unit to receive the B-52 "Stratofortress" heavy bomber, and played a large role in its integration. Also on

the model is the name of retired Master Sgt. Samuel O. Turner, who became the only tail-gunner to destroy a MiG fighter during combat operations over Vietnam.

After the dedication ceremony, Gen. Hornburg and Lt. Gen. Carlson ate lunch at the dining facility with airmen from throughout the base.

"Monday was a tremendous day for the entire 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force family," General Carlson said after the events. "With the standup of Detachment 1 and the opening of the STRATAF CAOC, we have increased the capabilities of not only 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and Barksdale Air Force Base, but of our partner in this effort, STRATCOM, as well as the combatant commanders around the globe."

In addition, General Carlson said he feels the B-



**Gen. Hal Hornburg, Air Combat Command commander, and Lt. Gen. Thomas Goslin Jr., deputy director of U.S. Strategic Command, cut the ribbon at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center Aug. 16. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Rayder)**

52 model is a great addition to the base.

"This B-52 model is a superb tribute to the men and women who have flown, maintained and supported the

B-52 so tirelessly day in and day out for its first 50 years, and to the men and women who will continue to keep her flying for many years to come."

### ● **KEEPER, from page 3**

other about life outside of work. In addition, be observant of one another and try to detect subtle changes in the disposition of those around you.

Interventions were taken in most of the recent cases. Unfortunately, they were not enough. We need to provide as many opportunities as possible for professional intervention before it is too late. We must be proactive in the practice of suicide prevention.

Some of you may feel awkward confronting someone about suicidal thoughts. That's understandable. However, if you feel uncomfortable, don't just talk among yourselves that someone you know has been acting strange lately.

Call or stop by the chaplain's office, life skills services, the family support center, MEO, Senior Master Sgt. Grover Henderson, 116th human resource advisor, or the health and wellness center, immediately. We are all professionals in the people business and are equipped to intervene in matters where you may have concerns about a change in behavior of a fellow airman.

In an e-mail message to the wing, Brig. Gen. Tom Lynn, 116th ACW commander, said, "Those that need help must seek help. The rest of us must be dedicated to making this an organization that takes care of its people."

Again, it is true that we are an exceptional unit. We have proven we work great together and duly earned our reputation of being the best of the best. In addition, I truly believe we care about one another. Nevertheless, the loss of our five fellow airmen is a grim reality. A reality, we all must face and again and never forget.

The 116th is going to have to become closer as a family. We will need to slow down our busy lives and begin to consciously look after each others well being. The bottom line, and answer to Cain's rhetorical question to God (New King James Bible Genesis 4:9) is "Yes, we are our brother's keeper!"

# JEFX 04 execution phase ends in success

By 1st Lt. James L. Bressendorff  
Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2004  
Public Affairs

**NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFPN)** — Two years, three spirals and three weeks of simulated combat in a fictional area of operations culminated in the completion of the Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2004 execution phase here Aug. 5.

JEFX 04 assessed 15 new initiatives in technology and processes designed to increase command and control capability, enhance predictive battlespace awareness, and decrease the time it takes to find, fix, target, track, engage and assess a given target.

The experiment is sponsored by Gen. John P. Jumper, the Air Force chief of staff. He visited the Combined Air and Space Operations Center Aug. 4 and proclaimed the experiment a success.

“Right now in the Air Force, more than 70 percent of our people are combat experienced — and now is the time to take advantage of that as we develop these new concepts and procedures,” he said. “That’s why it’s so important to have gatherings like this, experiments that focus on the technologies that make it easier for us. Because of the result of this (experiment) we will be much, much better; all because of the people that came here to participate from other services and other countries as well.”

General Jumper’s observations validated the hard work put forth by all participants, a sentiment shared by Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, the combined forces air component commander.

“To all the men and women who

have been a part of this experiment, I’d like to say ‘congratulations’ for a job well done,” he said. “This team has made great strides in combining state-of-the-art technology and developmental processes into tools for aiding in quick and precise decision-making on the battlefield. This (experiment) has been a great learning experience and has provided us with incredible insight into how we can best ensure operability in the future. We’re making it possible to give our warfighters the right information at the right time — not only that, we’re making it possible to give them this information in minutes and seconds now, instead of the hours and minutes it took during previous battles.”

General Carlson stressed his appreciation for the more than 3,400 people involved, from those on-scene assessors and mentors to Airmen and Soldiers working from satellite locations throughout the country.

“Through your collaborative efforts we’ll continue to refine and shape the way future conflicts are fought and won

— I’ve seen all the hard work everyone has devoted to this experiment, and I’m proud to be a part of this team,” General Carlson said.

A key theme of the experiment was integration with coalition partners. From the layout of the CAOC floor to the integration of systems, the experiment showcased an unprecedented sharing and collaboration between United States, United Kingdom, Australian and Canadian forces.

“We’ve learned that lesson in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom alongside our American colleagues,” said Royal Air Force Group Capt. Paddy

Teakle, the JEFX 04 deputy CAOC director. “At JEFX the coalition network system gave coalition partners access to the same information as our American colleagues enabling us to do the same jobs at the same level of competency.”

Group Captain Teakle also said JEFX 04 gave him and his deployed team an opportunity to take lessons learned from the experiment and apply them to their own processes and equipment while “keeping in mind the capability to seamlessly integrate with a United States CAOC as well as working alongside with our North Atlantic Treaty Organization and European colleagues.”

Along with the success of coalition partner integration, the experiment division chiefs shared their insights to the success they achieved in their areas.

“Our (combat plans division’s) greatest achievement was to produce nine air tasking orders in a very short battle rhythm,” said Lt. Col. Michael Fleck, combat plans division chief. “This was a first for any JEFX. Usually we have prebuilt ATOs, however for this JEFX we generated them all from scratch. We are now able to produce an ATO more closely tied to the CFACC’s desired effects with fewer people in less time.”

“Having the ability to test initiatives and accomplish a good evaluation on those tools that are ready to be fielded to operational CAOCs was the best success I could ask for,” said Lt. Col. Brian Searcy, combat operations division chief. “During the live-fly portion of JEFX 04, that capability really shined when we were able to get direct feedback on how we use our tactics, techniques and procedures. We were also able to provide excellent feedback on our initiatives that the modeling in the simulators did not necessarily provide.”

As with any endeavor, there were



## 8th Air Force Lance P. Sijan Nominees announced

By J. Manny Guendulay  
2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The 8th Air Force announced its nominees for 2004 Air Force Lance P. Sijan Award this week.

The Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award recognizes officers and enlisted members who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership.

Lt. Col. Patricia Hoffman, 608th Combat Operations Squadron, received the senior officer nomination. The junior officer award went to Capt. Tracy West of the 712th Air Support Operations Squadron. Master Sgt. William Miller, 608th Air Intelligence Squadron, received the senior enlisted level nomination. The junior enlisted level nominee

is Tech. Sgt. Michael Gibson of the 608th Air Communications Squadron.

Colonel Hoffman said she was completely honored by being nominated for her leadership skills.

"I was honored and humbled when I found out I won at this level," the colonel said. "Just to be mentioned in the same sentence as Lance Sijan – whose courage and sacrifice are symbolized in this leadership award – is an honor."

Lt. Col. Mike Coon, 712th ASOS director of operations, describes Capt. West's work as superb.

"We nominated Capt. West for the Sijan Award because of his absolutely superior leadership and perfor-

mance both in garrison and in our combat deployment to Iraq," Colonel Coon said. "He led and motivated his team of airmen to build and maintain an unprecedented communications and support package that was the critical piece to the Air Support Operations Center in Iraq. They overcame regular power failures, extreme heat and frequent mortar and rocket attacks."

Master Sgt. Artie Sanders, superintendent of combined air operations center systems for the 608th ACOMS, knows Sergeant Gibson is a good fit for the nomination.

"The Lance P. Sijan represents strong leadership characteristics and unyielding determination to accomplish

tasks with all odds against you," the sergeant said. "Tech. Sgt. Gibson has demonstrated these qualities in the past year during two deployments supporting the air war planners with the largest fielded command and control system during OEF/OIF. He has tremendously excelled in positions normally held by SNCOs. Last but not least, he is very mission oriented/focused to accomplish complex tasks on multi-million dollar communication platforms."

The award, first given in 1981, is named in honor of the first Air Force Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor. Sijan was shot down over Vietnam and successfully evaded capture for 45 days despite severe injuries.

### ● JEFX, from page 5

several challenges the warfighters faced. Most challenges were in the tools and processes being used, but some stemmed not from external sources but from ingrained ideals.

"Some of the challenge was in implementing techniques not documented; we are breaking new ground," said Lt. Col. Mark Mastushima, strategy division chief. "At the same time it's an exciting growth area because it's not just simply capturing a mechanical process. It's the beginning of operationalizing what's been an intellectual concept in a warfighting environment, so there have been some challenges associated with that."

"One of the challenges (the combat plans division) faced was experimenting with the tools, yet still being responsible for producing an ATO for the execution phase," Colonel Fleck said. "Because the

tools were not yet proven, there was always the possibility of failure and perhaps bringing the experiment to a halt, but that's why we have experiments — to validate and assess the tools before they are fielded so we know what works under fire and what does not."

"The greatest challenge for combat operations came from our mindset change from exercises. JEFX is an experiment, not an exercise," Colonel Searcy said. "As such, it is okay to fail to bring the initiative to fruition. It took a conscious effort to shift from the 'no failure' mentality to one where 'failure may be necessary sometimes to ferret out problems before they are fielded.'"

As this year's experiment closes, the advances made in coalition integration, command and control and machine-to-machine interfaces have matured.

"I was present at the first one (JEFX) in 1998 when it was a very rough experiment and we had a bunch of technology being demonstrated but were not very organized. It has gotten better over the years, and now with the addition of CAOC-N here at Nellis it makes all the difference in the world," General Jumper said. "I think out of this JEFX, we're going to get some very focused successes we can apply quickly to our AOCs throughout the world. I think this is what I had in mind years ago when this thing started; we'd get the technology to prove exactly what it can do and turn it quickly to the field with minimum additional development. I think we've arrived here at long last."

A final report on the experiment is scheduled to be sent to General Jumper in November.



# Information Warfare Flight gets new leader

By 1st Lt. Carla Pampe  
Chief, 8th Air Force Public Affairs

The 8th Information Warfare Flight said good-bye to their former commander and welcomed a new leader during a change of command ceremony Aug. 10.

Lt. Col. Mark Matsushima assumed command of the IWF from Lieutenant Col. Robert Morris, who has been assigned as deputy director for Information Operations Policy and Warfighter Support at the Pentagon.

Col. Bruce Heinlein, commander of the 67th Information Operations Group at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, presided over the ceremony. The 8th IWF falls under the 67th IOG. During his opening remarks, Colonel Heinlein praised the IWF's recent performance in the Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

"I could have asked for no more in an organization than what you were able to produce over the course of the last exercise," he said. "I have rarely seen performance like I saw last week at Nellis from an IWF or from an AOC ... I was incredibly impressed by Lieutenant Colonel Morris' team and by what you were able to do."

Before handing over the reigns of the flight to his successor, Colonel Morris bid his team farewell.

"What a fantastic two years," he said. "It's been an

honor to work with such a tremendous team as we brought information operations out from behind the green door and made it a normal part of air and space power. Thank you all for the support and great work."

In his first speech as IWF commander, Colonel Matsushima addressed some of the challenges the flight faces in the near future.

"With the opening of the new U.S. Strategic Command CAOC next week, we become a four-star combatant commander's full-time Air Force [Information Operations] planners 24/7," he said. "In order to meet that challenge as a squadron equivalent we're going to be working hard—not only in terms of professional training, but physical training as well, and getting ready to deploy for the next rotation over in Southwest Asia."

Colonel Matsushima also discussed an upcoming move that will place the 8th IWF under the 608th Air Operations Group at Barksdale.

"As we transition to a full-time command relationship with the 608th Air Operations Group, we need to make sure that happens smoothly and seamlessly," he said.

During the transition, the IWF commander said he feels it is vital to maintain ties to the Air Force's only dedicated Information Operations Wing—the 67th IOW, while still providing support for, and integration with, Headquarters U.S.



**Col. Bruce Heinlein, commander of the 67th Information Operations Group at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, presents the 8th Information Warfare Fight flag to Lt. Col. Mark Matsushima at the change of command ceremony here Aug. 10. (Photo by Senior Airman Kevin Camara)**

Strategic Command. In addition, he said the flight must continue their support of upcoming Air Force-wide exercises and AEF deployments.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Lieutenant Colonel Matsushima earned his commission in 1987 as a graduate of Officer Training School.

The lieutenant colonel's military career includes experience as a signals intelligence officer; flight commander and senior director of the Northeast Air Defense Sector; weapons and tactics officer; and flight commander for the 552nd Training Squadron at Tinker AFB, Okla. Following time as a student at Air Command and Staff College and the U.S. Marine Corps School of Advanced Warfighting, Colonel Matsushima served as the strategy flight commander for the 608th Combat Plans Squad-

ron at Barksdale and a future plans officer with the J-5 Directorate at U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla. After returning to Barksdale as an operations officer with the 608th Combat Plans Squadron at Barksdale, he took over as chief of the 8th Air Force Commander's Action Group.

Colonel Matsushima's vision for the 8th IWF is to fully institutionalize and ingrain information operations throughout the CAOC, while maintaining core IO expertise and full-spectrum combat readiness.

"There are a lot of challenges and opportunities ahead for us in the IWF, and I'm honored to be a very small part of writing the next chapter in the 8th IWF's history," he said. "To the Airmen of the 8th IWF, we're going to be moving fast, so hang on—it's going to be fun."

# Emergency Services Team tackles test

By Senior Airman Nick Martin  
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

**WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, MO (ACCNS)** – Some situations reach a critical point where an aggressor leaves almost no options for a peaceful resolution. The last chance for everyone to survive a situation may fall into the hands of an Emergency Services Team.

From hostage situations to terrorist threats when the situation warrants, the Air Force employs its specially trained EST members as a last resort after negotiations have failed.

“The objective of an Emergency Services Team is to save lives, even the life of the bad guy,” Tech. Sgt. Randy Wyatt, 509th Security Forces Squadron EST team leader, said.

Sergeant Wyatt, who coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers and civilian contractors to secure a base housing unit slated for demolition for the exercise, said “the added realism of the exercise contributed to our

learning experience. It encapsulated many hours of training into one short three-hour scenario.”

“By allowing the team to use this house, they were given an invaluable training experience,” Tech. Sgt. Teddy Greevebiester, 509th SFS, said.

Aside from exercises, members of the EST attend a time-intensive, two week long course at the United States Army Special Reaction Team School at the Military Police Training Center in Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. During the course, students are taught by Army and Marine instructors. The course covers responding to and neutralizing barricaded suspects, hostage rescue operations, counter terrorist actions and special event operations.

The 26 members of Whiteman’s EST had to qualify for the team by passing a physical agility test, practical tactics evaluation, oral interview, psychological profile and a records review.

Members of Whiteman’s EST are also looking toward future training to enhance their life



**Members of the 509th Security Forces Squadron Emergency Services Team perform a practical field exercise in base housing as Master Sgt. Richard Stephens, 509th SFS standards evaluator, looks on. (Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin)**

saving capabilities.

“We have two active members who have attended the National Guard Sniper School in Little Rock, Ark. We’re hoping to get a few more slots,” 1st Lt. Steve Tackett, 509th SFS EST officer in charge, said, “adding to our team’s abilities and overall effectiveness.”

One added ability will be that of a trained sharp shooter using a M-24 Sniper Weapon System to neutralize targets. Sharp shooters will have the benefit to deliver discrimina-

tory, highly accurate rifle fire against enemy targets not accessible to riflemen or regular law enforcement because of range, location, visibility and other factors affecting target acquisition.

Capt. Thomas Segars, 509th SFS operations officer, added, “Members of Whiteman’s Emergency Response Services Team are the best of the best. Their training, devotion and professionalism prepare them for any contingency operation they may encounter. You can rest assured they are up to any challenge.”

*“The objective of an Emergency Services Team is to save lives, even the life of the bad guy.”*

*Tech. Sgt. Randy Wyatt  
509th Security Forces  
Squadron EST team leader*



# Air Force family shows spirit

By Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole  
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

**ST. LOUIS, MO (ACCNS)** — Visiting the Binder family is like taking a trip back in time. Card and board games, puzzles, hugs and laughter abound when the family is together indoors. During quieter times, the mother reads Harry Potter novels aloud.

But, there's not too much that keeps the six-member family inside.

Roots planted 10 years ago in Leeton, Mo. keep the family busy in local government, volunteer events and sports.

Tech. Sgt. Steve Binder works in the 509th Maintenance Operations Squadron Maintenance Operations Center. He tracks aircraft status and flight line operations, and briefs the 509th Bomb Wing and 8th Air Force senior leaders on daily operations and wartime contingencies.

His Air Force skills of keeping his fingers on the pulse of daily operations serve him well as the head of his family.

Currently, the family is split between two homes — one in Leeton and one in St. Louis. On weekends, Steve packs up Stephanie, 15, Vincent, 13, and Shannon, 8, and drives to St. Louis to visit his wife, Julie, and daughter, Leeann, 9.

When Leeann's health deteriorated in May to the point she needed to be closer to specialized medical attention to wait for a lung transplant, she and Julie moved across the state to wait for a donor.

For eight years, Steve's family has made these types of trips. Leeann was born with an arterial septal defect — a small hole in the upper chambers of the heart — and she developed pulmonary hypertension which caused her to have her first lung transplant at 15 months. Leeann's long wait for the second transplant ended Aug. 11 when she received



**Stephanie, Leeann, Steve, Julie, Shannon and Vincent Binder enjoy weekend time together in St. Louis. The Binder family is split between two homes because of continuing medical care for Leeann's heart condition. They get together on weekends. (Photo by Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole)**

a new lung. She's doing well, Steve said.

Permanently tied to an oxygen tank, Leeann stays inside as much as possible.

During the week, she fills her time with doctor's visits and physical therapy. Leeann makes bead gifts for friends and family members, puts puzzles together and watches videos. She also likes to write, a talent that earned her a Young Author's award. And, she waits for the weekly visits by the rest of the family.

Leeann's fragile health is readily absorbed by the family who loves her so much.

For instance, Steve said Stephanie has given up a lot of her personal life.

"I'm inspired by my boyfriend," Stephanie said. "He understands and knows the situation. That helps a lot."

The family agrees that support is the key ingredient to their successful transition to long-distance togetherness and the daily challenges of keeping the family strong.

"A lot of support from our families, the community and base help us through this. There are good people who have helped with the kids (when Steve and I have had to be away)," Julie said. "Through the week we deal with it through phone calls and look forward to the weekends."

Steve agreed.

"We see a lot of the good that's still out there. On the news you don't always see that," he said. "People are doing things for us out of the kindness of their heart and we don't always know who it is at the time. But, they're always there when we need them."

"Sometimes, we get support from people we wouldn't expect and it humbles us," Steve said.

For instance, someone mowed the Binders' lawn one weekend. And while the work was appreciated, Steve laughed

# Reunion brings memory of important U.S. event

Senior Airman Ebony  
Nichols  
9<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Wing

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – In the early 1960s, the citizens of the United States and the Soviet Union waited in torturous anticipation while the two governments discussed devastating weapons neither country had to face before.

One heroic mission in 1963 exposed Cuban offensive ballistic missiles pointing directly at the United States.

Because of the dedication and bravery of the pilots and crew, the U.S. was able to avoid great tragedy.

Of the crew who flew high altitude missions over Cuba during Oct. 14-29, 1962, only seven remain. These seven heroes met July 27 in Houston, Texas, for a reunion.

Those in attendance were

Buddy Brown, Edwin Emerling, Roger Herman, Richard Heyser, Charles Kern, Gerald McIlmoyle and Dan Schmarr. The director of the flying mission in those trying days, Tony Martinez, was also in attendance. This meeting was the first in over 42 years.

Before a backdrop of an enlarged photo of their Distinguished Flying Cross Awards presentation by Gen. Thomas Power; an enlarged "Old Crow" mascot; displays of photos, maps and actual items such as a helmet and ejection seat, brought to Houston by the Laughlin heritage Foundation; and under a large Styrofoam model of the U-2, the pilots proceeded to each give personal stories of those tense days in world history.

For the very first time, the pilots acknowledged that each had been fired upon by surface to air missiles during their

overflights. It was also recorded that MIG aircraft, flown by Soviet pilots attempted to intercept them by using a zoom-climb technique.

An overflow crowd of more than 200 was on hand at the noon luncheon.

These pilots have never touted their heroism even though they were cited for: "distinguished themselves by heroism and extraordinary achievement in a duty of great responsibility."

Sadly, Robert Primrose died in a U-2 accident, George Bull passed away soon following the mission, and James Qualls died during an emergency surgery. Rudolph Anderson, unfortunately, was shot down during a mission.

For 14 days in 1962, an event occurred that almost started a nuclear war. The Cuban Missile Crisis was a critical, historical cold war

event that prevented a nuclear war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and saved an unimaginable number of lives.

In 1961, Project NIMBUS called for monthly flying missions over Cuba.

Due to increased activity of the Soviet Union, fling missions were raised to two per month in May 1962.

"The U-2's role in the missions was to find and take pictures of the missiles and missile complexes, and prove that the Soviet Union was indeed using Cuba as a base," said Dr. Coy F. Cross, II, 9<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Wing historian.

Thanks to their brave contributions, the U.S. was able to set up a blockade around Cuba, which intercepted ships from the Soviet Union bringing more missiles to Cuba, according to Dr. Cross.

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that Vincent lost out on some of his allowance money for the week.

And while Leeann gets a lot of attention these days, Julie said the goal is to treat each child as equal as possible. "This may seem impossible, but we hope they all feel they get the attention they need when they need it," Julie said. "For instance, when one of the children is involved in something, we support it and we're there for it."

Vincent said he feels included and connected. "It's good to be from a big family. And though I'm the only boy, I'm used to the extra responsibility," he said.

"We have fun and do fun things together," Leeann said. "They (our parents) have faith in us. Like they say, 'We know

you can do it, when we know we can't.'"

Escape from the stress of a separated family and Leeann's health problems is an important part of the equation.

Steve restored a 1974 Javelin, is a city alderman, Leeton's mayor pro tem and is active with the Leeton Fair.

Stephanie said she writes to release her emotions, stays busy with homework during the school year, cheerleads and plays the clarinet.

Vincent rides his bike, builds models and plays baseball.

Shannon plays softball and is a cheerleader. At cheer camp, she earned the Most Team Spirit Award and was cocaptain of the cheerleading team.

Until the move across Missouri,

Leeann managed the Blue Diamonds, Shannon's softball team. In fact, Leeann designed the jerseys, named the team and the players chipped in to buy her uniform, which is emblazoned with a 1 1/2 on it. The team finished 12-1 this year.

Meanwhile, Julie reads books to the family and coordinates events for the St. Louis get-togethers. The family recently celebrated Shannon's birthday in the adopted hometown.

With Steve's military career and Leeann's continuing health problems, separation is nothing new for the family. However, this is the first time the family has been separated for this long in seven years.